

Application No. 10/801,402
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 2 and 4 and to recite the feature of the present invention whereby a defect inspection result obtained from the regular reflection image and a defect inspection result obtained from the image other than the regular reflection are added, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 18, lines 12-19.

In addition, claims 2 and 4-15 have been canceled, and claims 3 and 16 have been amended to depend from amended claim 1.

Still further, new claims 17-23 have been added to recite additional distinguishing features of the present invention. New claim 17 corresponds to the subject matter of canceled claim 7 in independent form. New claim 18 corresponds to the subject matter of canceled claim 9 in independent form. New claim 19 corresponds to the subject matter of canceled claim 11 in independent form. New claim 20 corresponds to the subject matter of canceled claim 12 in independent form. New claim 21 corresponds to the subject matter of claim 13 in independent form. New claim 22 corresponds to the subject matter of canceled claim 14 in

Application No. 10/801,402
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

independent form. And new claim 23 corresponds to the combined subject matter of canceled claims 2 and 4 in independent form and the disclosure in the specification page 18, lines 12-19.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

CLAIM FEE

The application was originally filed with 16 claims of which 1 was independent, and the appropriate claim fee was paid for such claims. The application now contains 10 claims, of which 8 are independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of \$440.00 for the addition of 7 independent claims is attached hereto. In addition, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of JP 9-61365 ("Matsuzawa"), USP 6,594,012 ("Takeuchi et al") and JP 11-219990 ("Mizuno et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

Application No. 10/801,402
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

As recognized by the Examiner, Matsuzawa discloses a defect inspection device in which images are received at a plurality of angles and scanning a sample by moving it, Takeuchi et al teaches a moveable light source and detector, and Mizuno et al teaches scanning both sides of a sample.

However, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, taken singly or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention whereby:

1) a defect inspection result obtained from the regular reflection image and a defect inspection result obtained from the image other than the regular reflection are added (Claim 1);

2) the moving section includes an invertible holding member which holds the front surface and rear surface of the sample while leaving them open,

the illumination section and the image pickup section are disposed on one side of the sample held by the holding member, and

the holding member is inverted after inspecting one of the front surface and rear surface of the sample, and the other one of the front surface and rear surface of the sample is next inspected (Claim 17);

Application No. 10/801,402
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

3) the moving section comprises a holding member including a transparent material, and

the illumination sections and the image pickup sections are respectively disposed on both sides of the sample held by the holding member (Claim 18);

4) the holding member comprises one of: (i) a structure for holding the sample such that the front surface and the rear surface of the sample are open, and (ii) a rear side surface that is transparently formed, and

the illumination sections and the image pickup sections, which inspect respectively the front surface and rear surface of the sample, are respectively disposed on both sides of the holding member (Claim 19);

5) the inspection section comprises a first inspection section which inspects the front surface of the sample and a second inspection section which inspects the rear surface of the sample, and

the second inspection section is provided between a carrying section which carries the sample, and the first inspection section (Claim 20);

6) the moving section comprises a plurality of non-contact carrying conveyers which carry the sample, and

a clearance to pick up an image of the rear surface of the sample is provided in a direction crossing a carrying

Application No. 10/801,402
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

direction of the sample in a carrying path of the plurality of carrying conveyers (Claim 21);

7) the moving section comprises a plurality of non-contact carrying conveyers which carry the sample, and a clearance to pick up an image of the rear surface of the sample is provided in a direction crossing a carrying direction of the sample in a carrying path of the plurality of carrying conveyers (Claim 22); or

8) the regular reflection image and the image other than the regular reflection image are synthesized to perform defect inspection (Claim 23).

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention a moving section is provided for reciprocating the sample, as recited in amended claim 1 and each of new independent claims 17-23. By contrast, Mizuno et al discloses rotating a mostly circular sample, and Matsuzawa discloses moving the sample in a single direction.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1, claims 3 and 16 depending therefrom, and new independent claims 17-23 all clearly patentably distinguish over the cited references, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 103.


Application No. 10/801,402
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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